GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3132
ANSWERED ON:23.03.2005
PROLIFERATION OF PRIVATE MEDICAL COLLEGES
Rao Shri Devarakonda Vittal

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware of the proliferation of private medical colleges and the falling standard of medical syllabus in the country as appeared in the `Hindu` dated January 29, 2005;

(a) if so, the details in this regard;

(b) whether a Committee has been constituted by the Supreme Court to examine the facilities as per MCI norms in medical colleges;

(c) if so, the details of the recommendations of the Committee; and

(d) the steps taken/being taken by the Government for implementation of these recommendations?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH & FAMILY WELFARE (SMT. PANABAKA LAKSHMI)

(a) & (b):To check the uncontrolled growth of private medical colleges, the Indian Medical Council Act, 1956 was amended in 1993 to provide for prior permission of the Central Government to start a new medical college. As per the provision of amended Act and Regulations made thereunder any person, who is desirous of opening a new medical college in the private sector, is required to submit an application alongwith Essentiality Certificate issued by the concerned State Government. While giving such an Essentiality Certificate, the State Government is required to indicate the availability of doctors in the State and the need for improving the availability of medical manpower in the State. It is also required to certify that the State Government has no objection to the establishment of the proposed medical college and that adequate clinical material for that purpose is available as per the Councils norms. The Council conducts an inspection for verification of the availability of the requisite facilities as per the Councils norms before making the recommendation to the Central Government for grant of permission for the establishment of a new medical college. The Council also conducts periodic inspection of the already established medical colleges to ensure that the minimum facilities in terms of the Councils norms are available in such colleges. Necessary provisions are thus available in the Regulations of the Council to regulate the establishment of the medical colleges in the country and to prevent lowering of the standards of medical education.

(c) to (e) The Hon`ble Supreme Court of India has appointed Ad-hoc Committee, presently consisting of three members, to monitor the functioning of Medical Council of India. The Committee has submitted its report to the Hon`ble Court. Copies of the report have also been submitted to the Central Government. The recommendations made therein pertains to various aspects concerning the medical education sector including with regard to the functioning of Medical Council of India with a view to improve the system as a whole. The report is presently under consideration of the Government.